


ROADMAP TO RECOVERY

Connecticut has been facing unprecedented budget deficits for the past two years that have contributed to record business closings, job losses and home foreclosures. Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled legislature has ignored our requests to work together to reduce spending and streamline the delivery of state services. Instead, the majority passed a budget last year – without the Governor's signature or a single Republican vote – that relied on one-time gimmicks, borrowing and tax increases.

We believe there's a better way. That's why over the past two years legislative Republicans have put forth plans that will create jobs and significantly reduce state spending by streamlining government functions and eliminating waste. We are hopeful that the current fiscal crisis will finally give the majority incentive to join our efforts. Our legislative priorities include:

- Balancing the Budget
- Reducing Government Spending – Not Raising Taxes
- Performing Public Duties at a Lower Cost
- Consolidating State Agencies
- Increasing Transparency, Oversight and Accountability
- Helping Businesses Create Jobs
- Lowering Property Taxes by Eliminating Unfunded Mandates
- Putting People First!



Sincerely,

Kevin Witkos

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Thank you for this opportunity to share information about important issues affecting our state. If you have questions about this or any other issue concerning state government, please feel free to contact me directly.



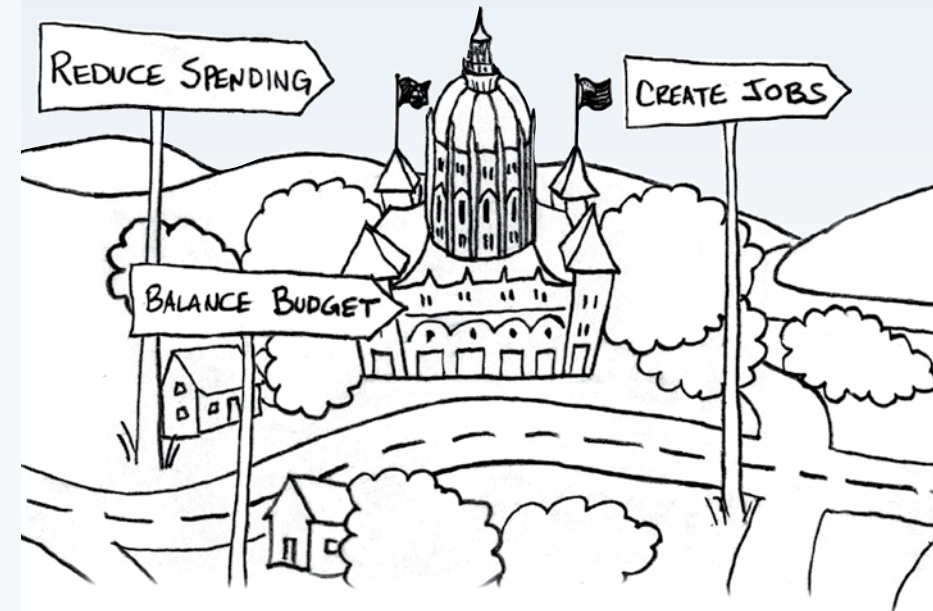
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STATE SENATOR
KEVIN WITKOS
★★★ Assistant Minority Leader ★★★



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BALANCE THE BUDGET

The General Assembly has no greater responsibility than balancing the state budget which has been in deficit for over two years. I voted against the two-year budget passed in 2009 which raised taxes on families and businesses, was \$400 million in deficit upon passage, and is projected to be more than \$725 million in deficit for FY11.

REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING, DON'T RAISE TAXES

The key to balancing the state budget in a responsible way is cutting government spending, not raising taxes.

PERFORM PUBLIC DUTIES AT A LOWER COST

Outsource DMV services, highway maintenance, maintenance of state parks and certain social services to non-profits and other private businesses that perform the same functions more cost effectively.

CONSOLIDATE STATE AGENCIES

Streamline the executive branch, cut the number of state agencies in half, and save taxpayers money while still delivering the same quality of services by eliminating redundancy.

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY, OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Just as every family and business in Connecticut is reexamining their spending habits to cope with the economic downturn, state government can reduce costs and combat waste, fraud and abuse through biennial auditing of all state agencies' finances, effectiveness and efficiency.

HELP BUSINESSES CREATE JOBS

To improve the business climate in Connecticut and capitalize on our highly skilled and educated workforce, we should: expand job creation tax credits; repeal the 10% corporate tax surcharge; repeal the business entity tax; eliminate outdated, redundant and counterproductive state business regulations; and provide tax incentives to emerging and next generation industries including alternative fuel, environmental remediation and nanotechnology.

LOWER PROPERTY TAXES BY ELIMINATING UNFUNDED MANDATES

One of the largest drivers of local property taxes is the General Assembly's yearly enactment of costly new mandates on cities and towns without providing the means to pay for them. Local governments are equipped to make the policy decisions that best suit their individual circumstances. State government should get off their backs and stop passing unfunded mandates.

PUT PEOPLE FIRST!

We are Americans first, Republicans and Democrats second. Too often we let political ideology get in the way of the universal values that bind us together. We must work in a responsible, bipartisan way if we are to balance our budget, put people back to work and protect our quality of life.

